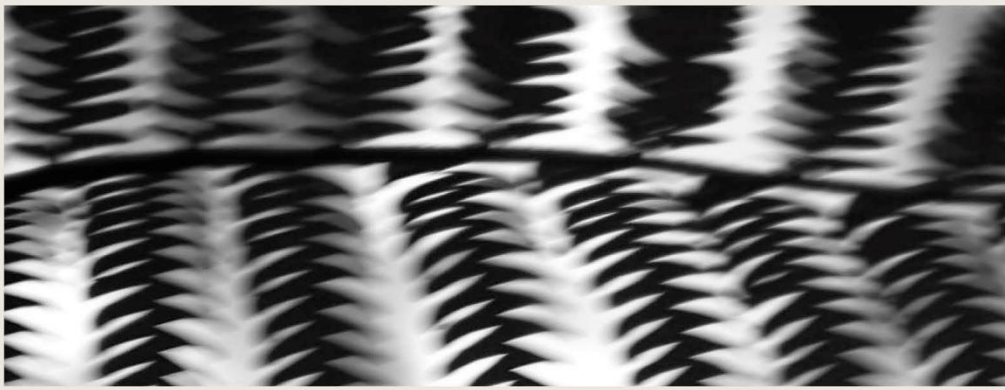


ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2012 – 31 July 2013



RESEARCH

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

PEARS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANTISEMITISM

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**Professor David Feldman, Director
1 November 2013**

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Overview of the Year

The Institute was established in November 2010 with the aim of promoting greater understanding of antisemitism. Central to this aim is our founding principle that the study of antisemitism is vital to understanding racism, religious intolerance and xenophobia more broadly. We seek to encourage open and constructive dialogue around these important issues and contribute new research and new ways of thinking in three main areas: connecting antisemitism and racism, exploring the 'new antisemitism' and promoting interdisciplinary work.

In each of these areas in 2012/13 we set ambitious and demanding goals for the year. We sought to complete a number of high profile academic initiatives begun in 2011 and also to make substantive progress in the area of public policy engagement. We have successfully achieved these goals.

We have:

- Held a symposium on integration and extremism at the House of Commons
- Conceived and organised a successful international conference on Boycotts
- Run a successful programme of academic workshops and public lectures
- Secured additional funding for teaching with a fully-funded four year PhD studentship
- Secured further funding for research with a successful grant application for a major international conference in 2014

2012/13 has seen major steps forward at the Institute. Above all, the boycotts conference and the House of Commons symposium on integration and extremism, which have been the focus of much of the Institute's energies during the year, have generated significant rewards. The Boycotts conference has greatly enhanced the Institute's reputation among academics for its innovative and open approach to exploring difficult and contentious issues, while the symposium has provided a substantial lift to the Institute's profile in the public policy arena. In their different ways, both events presented cutting edge research and new thinking that warrants publication. These publications will in turn reinforce the standing of the Institute and its capacity to contribute to academic discussion and public policy debate.

In addition, the Institute sustained its commitment to running an extensive programme of interdisciplinary academic and public events exploring a range of issues concerning antisemitism and racism more broadly. A number of these were the result of new partnerships which also brought additional funding into the Institute. Sixteen events, a mix of public lectures and round-tables, academic workshops, symposia and conferences, were held in 2012-2013, attended by over 1200 people (with a small number attending more than one event).

The level and high standard of activity achieved through the year would not have been possible without enhanced administrative resource, made possible through significant additional funding from Pears Foundation.

This annual report highlights what has been accomplished through the year against the Institute's primary objectives of research, teaching, public engagement and policy engagement. For each we set out the key priorities for the year, followed by a summary of achievements.

Research

Key Priorities

- Enhance the research reputation of the Institute through publications and the presentation of papers at international conferences and workshops
- Hold two international conferences
- Hold three international workshops
- Devise research applications for funding with the aim of developing work on the Institute's thematic priorities (see above) and enlarging the number of researchers at the Institute

Key Achievements

Publications and Papers

The Director has had four papers accepted for publication this year: 'Settlement and the Law in the Seventeenth Century' in S King and A Winter (eds) *Migration, Settlement and Belonging in Europe, 1500-1930s* (Berghahn Books, November 2013); 'Religion, Race and the Jews: Conceiving Difference in Britain, c.1750-1900' (developed from his inaugural lecture), in *History Workshop Journal* (Vol. 76, issue 1, Autumn, 2013); 'Ritual Murder in Early Victorian Britain' in S Gilman (ed) *Christians and Jews: Collaboration and Conflict* (Hong Kong University Press, date tbc); and 'Zionism and the British Labour Party', presented at Brown University in November 2012, which will appear in a volume of essays, *Jewish History After the Imperial Turn: French and Comparative Perspectives*, (Brandeis University Press, date tbc). In addition, the Director was invited to write the afterword for an important collection of essays, *Racialization and Religion* (N Meer, ed., Routledge, October 2013) which brings together the contemporary study of Antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The Director has also presented papers at four international conferences in Europe, USA, Israel and South Africa and was invited to speak at another two. In addition, at the invitation of various academic institutions, the Director has given five lectures in the US, Israel and the UK. Topics covered included antisemitism and Zionism and imperialism and migration.

Director's Lectures

- *Migration Policy from the Old Poor Law to the Welfare State*, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
- *Zionism and the British Labour Party*, Brown University, USA
- *Approach of the Pears Institute to the Study of Antisemitism*, Clarke University, USA
- *Religion, Race and the Jews: Conceiving Difference in Britain, c1750-1900*, Ohio State University, USA
- *Researching Antisemitism in the Twenty-First Century: Problematics, Dilemmas, Opportunities*, Association of Jewish Studies, Chicago, USA
- *Approach of the Pears Institute to the Study of Antisemitism*, Symposium on Contemporary Antisemitism in the UK, London
- *Religion, Race and the Jews: Conceiving Difference in Britain, c1750-1900*, Tel Aviv University
- *Zionism and the British Labour Party*, University of Cape Town, South Africa

- *Zionism and the British Labour Party*, University of Oxford
- *How 'Antisemitism' came to Britain*, World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel

In the course of the year the Director has been invited to join the new editorial advisory board for the journal *Immigrants and Minorities* and the new scientific (research) committee of the Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration, in Paris. He was also invited to meet with Professor Beverley Yamamoto from the University of Osaka, who is seeking to establish links between Osaka University and the UK's leading university departments teaching postgraduate courses on multiculturalism and ethnic diversity.

The Institute's two research fellows, Dr Ludivine Broch (Pears Institute Early Career Fellow, funded by the Pears Foundation) and Dr Becky Taylor (Wellcome Trust Research Fellow), both of whom joined the Institute in September 2012, have also made a valuable contribution to raising the research profile of the Institute this year.

Ludivine Broch has presented papers relating to her research on Vichy France, the French railways and the Holocaust at four conferences in Europe, the US and Israel and several in the UK, as well as co-organising a successful academic workshop on the work of Charlotte Delbo, Primo Levi and other Holocaust writers (further details below). Ludivine's revised PhD thesis has been accepted for publication and will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2015 under the title, *Ordinary Workers, Vichy and the Holocaust: French Railwaymen in the Second World War*; it will also be published in French (by Tallandier) in 2016. Two papers are also in press: 'Professionalism in the Final Solution', *European Contemporary History* (2014) and 'The SNCF Affair: Divided Memories of Vichy France', in *Lessons and Legacies* (2015).

Becky Taylor has played an important role in the public policy work of the Institute, speaking at the two Pears Institute events held this year relating to diversity and integration. In addition, Becky has just completed her book, *Another Darkness, Another Dawn: Roma, Gypsies and Travellers Through History* (Reaktion Books, 2014), and an essay written with Colin Clark on 'Fly-tipping, noise, straying livestock and untaxed vehicles': the social construction of Gypsies and Travellers as perpetrators of 'anti-social' behaviour in Britain', is forthcoming in Sarah Pickard (ed.) *Anti-Social Behaviour in Britain Since The Eighteenth Century: Sociological and Political Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Research Fellows' Lectures

Ludivine Broch

- *Rescue in the Railways*, Imperial War Museum North, Manchester
- *The Deportations of 1942*, League against Racism and Antisemitism, Paris
- *Jewish Memory in Rural France: the case of ex-internment camps*, University of Chicago
- *Remembering the SNCF's role in the Holocaust*, Imperial War Museum, London
- *Trains in late 1942*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem
- *La Bataille du Rail? Revisiting the myth of cheminot resistance in Vichy France*, Institute of Historical Research, London
- *Les Cheminots dans la Résistance*, Institut Historique Allemand, Paris
- *Ordinary Workers, Vichy and the Holocaust*, Barnet Library, London
- *La Bataille du Rail Revisited*, French History Network Workshop, Oxford

Becky Taylor

- *Oral History and the Re-Telling of Poverty and Welfare*, University of Strathclyde
- *Contact or Threat?: the White Working Class, Immigration and The Far Right in England and Wales*, Birkbeck, University of London
- *The Struggle Against Disadvantage: Challenging the Ethnicization of Class*, House of Commons, London

International Conferences

The Institute has organised two international conferences this year. The first, *Boycotts – Past and Present* (19-21 June, 2013), hosted on behalf of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism, broke new ground in addressing the history of boycotts from the eighteenth century to the present day. Our premise was that by taking this long-term view we would be able to achieve a better understanding of the causes, rhetoric and impact of boycott movements in the past and, at the same time, shed light on boycott movements in the present day, including the current Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement directed against Israel. The conference brought together 29 speakers from various disciplines: political scientists, sociologists, historians and legal scholars, with a further 35 scholars attending to participate in discussion. It was disappointing that there were no Arab or Palestinian speakers at the conference, despite the wide publicity given to the call for papers; this absence will be addressed in the subsequent publication. Collectively however, those attending the conference encompassed a range of academic perspectives on boycott movements and on BDS. The papers given were of a high quality and the discussion that ensued was thoughtful, stimulating and illuminating, as one participant tweeted, “Sparky but civil, scholarly yet political. Many thoughts provoked.”

The feedback given below is representative of the many comments we received:

“I found the conference to be one of those – very rare in the UK these days – in which historical perspectives were genuinely used to frame and illuminate the contemporary world.” Jeremy Krikler, University of Essex

“Congratulations...for pulling off the daunting, well-nigh impossible task of organizing a thoughtful, informative and only occasionally polemical conference on BDS. I learned a great deal...” Derek Penslar, University of Toronto and University of Oxford

“Conferences are usually a matter of routine for academics, but this one was truly exceptional, as I don't recall another conference from which I came back home with so much food for thought, in both its academic and political aspects.” Hizky Shoham, Shalom Hartman Institute and Bar Ilan University

“I think the conference was a success by all measures, and its smooth running is really a testament to the professionalism of Pears Institute and the great staff you've assembled.” Michael Miller, Central European University

The Boycotts conference successfully achieved its objectives: to create a forum for academic debate to better comprehend the causes and content of boycott movements and to advance understanding of whether and how the BDS movement sits within the debate on contemporary antisemitism. The path-breaking event will result in a volume of essays, facilitating wider dissemination and, specifically, enabling the discussion over

BDS to be developed further along the innovative lines of enquiry proposed by the conference. The Boycotts conference would not have been possible without the significant financial support provided by the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy.

The second conference, *Encounters with Athens, Rome and Jerusalem: (re)visiting sites of textual authority in the C19th and early C20th* (1-2 July 2013) was a smaller event (40 participants) with eminent scholars invited from the US, Israel, Europe and the UK. This conference was jointly funded by the Pears Institute, the Department of History Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck and the Birkbeck Institute of Humanities. It is an example of where the Institute has been successful in collaborating with others in order to extend its activities, integrate its work within Birkbeck and make the most of its finite resources.

International Workshops

The Institute has also collaborated with other institutions on three international academic workshops this year:

- *Constructing the Memory of the Nazi Persecutions in Post-War Western Europe* (November 2012), held with the Imperial War Museum and Royal Holloway, University of London, attended by 40 postgraduate students and scholars
- *Writing Auschwitz: Testimony, Representation and Prose in the Work of Charlotte Delbo, Primo Levi and Holocaust Writers* (March 2013), organised with the Group for War and Culture Studies, Westminster University and supported by the French Institute, which attracted over 50 participants
- *Sanctioned Laughter: Humour, War and Dictatorship in Twentieth Century Europe* (May 2013) held in partnership with the Wiener Library, which attracted 36 participants.

At the start of the academic year, the Institute also held a workshop, *Defining and Conceptualising Antisemitism: Institutions and the Law* (September 2012) which brought together 40 participants, including representatives from charities, think-tanks, advocacy groups, the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism and two members of the House of Lords: Baroness Ruth Deech, Chair of the Bar Standards Board and Sir Terence Etherton, Lord Justice of Appeal. The event was very successful and the intention was to follow it up with a further symposium in spring 2013. This was not possible given the pressure of other high-profile events, but it will be realised in 2014, with a view to generating material for a significant publication.

Research bids

A joint-application with the History of Parliament Trust to the British Academy has been successful, with full funding secured for a British Academy sponsored international conference, *Parliaments and minorities: ethnicities, nations and religions in Europe, 1848-1948* to take place in May 2014. British Academy conferences are highly prestigious, being regarded as 'pivotal events of lasting academic significance in their field'.

Teaching

Key Priorities

- Continue to attract students to undertake research degrees
- Attract external funding for research students
- Introduce a new postgraduate module on *Genocide in the Twentieth Century*

Key Achievements

The Institute has had considerable success this year in attracting postgraduate students and securing funding for their studies. Four postgraduate students join the Institute in September 2013 to commence research degrees supervised/co-supervised by the Director; this brings the complement to seven. The PhD students' research covers:

- Britain and "the East End of Europe": The Balkans and British Liberalism, 1875-1925
- Muslims and Jews in Britain since 1960
- Campus Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism in the 1970s
- The art restoration profession and the Nazi regime
- The relationship between British Trade Unions and black and Asian workers 1968-80
- The debate on the Hindu practice of Sati in Victorian Britain
- German prisoners of war in Britain during the Second World War.

The Institute, working with Birkbeck's Alumni and Development Office, has been successful in attracting a fully-funded four year PhD studentship from a private donor and alumnus of Birkbeck. The Pears Institute Eric Salama PhD Studentship has been awarded to Helen Carr to support her research into relations between Muslims and Jews in Britain since 1960.

Nineteen students took the new postgraduate module on *Genocide in the Twentieth Century*, taught by Ludivine Broch, the Pears Institute Early Career Fellow. In addition, a further 23 modules on subjects concerned with antisemitism, religious and racial intolerance and multiculturalism were available to students studying at Birkbeck in 2012/13; these included the certificate module: *The Holocaust: Propaganda, Experiences, Memory*, attended by 14 students and the BA module: *The Birth of Modern Germany, 1870-1933*, taken by 22 students. The interdisciplinary programme on *Culture, Diaspora and Ethnicity* which covers social sciences, law, arts and humanities and is offered at MA, Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate levels attracted 32 students.

Public Engagement

Key Priorities

- Maintain an extensive programme of high quality roundtables and lectures

Key Achievements

The Institute held eight public lectures and round-tables this year covering a range of topics, disciplines and periods; from medieval literature and the portrayal of Jews and the Holy Land, to the sociological exploration of multiculturalism and Islamophobia in contemporary Europe. A number of events have been related to the Holocaust, including the value of oral testimony; memory and rescue; and the role of Holocaust remembrance in the framing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was drafted by French jurist and Jewish statesman, René Cassin.

Public events held in 2012/13

- *Oral Testimonies in Holocaust Research*, Stefanie Schüler-Springorum
- *Does Your Rabbi Know You're Here? The Story of English Football's Forgotten Tribe*, Anthony Clavane
- *A Small Town near Auschwitz – Ordinary Nazis and the Holocaust*, Mary Fulbrook and Jane Caplan
- *Rescue: Memory, Myth and Morality*, John Dobai, Tony Kushner, Bob Moore
- *Backlash Against Multiculturalism in Europe: Struggling Over the Mode of Incorporation*, Jeffrey C Alexander
- *Literature, Immigration, and Diaspora in Fin de Siecle England: A Cultural History of the 1905 Aliens Act*, David Glover, Sonya Rose and Bill Schwarz
- *Margery Kempe (c.1373 - c.1438), the Jews, and the Northern Jerusalem*, Anthony Bale
- *René Cassin, the Holocaust, and the Universal Declaration for Human Rights*, Jay Winter

The public events continue to be very well supported, with most attracting an audience of between 70-100 people, the majority of whom are non-academics. Feedback has been positive:

"...the lecture by S Schüler-Springorum was superb." Academic and writer

"Many thanks for organising last night's excellent evening. It touched a lot of things in me and ran much deeper than the football. I've often fought with my own Jewish identity (not uniquely) and the event certainly hit a few raw nerves. It was however 'all good' as they currently say." Member of the Public

"A most enjoyable talk and discussion last night." Member of the public

"Thanks again for an excellent event." Oxford University Press

"The roundtable at the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism was a great success last night. I don't often get to play to packed houses!" Speaker

"I would like to express my gratitude to the Pears Institute for the quality of the events it organises." Member of the public

Policy Engagement

Key Priorities

- Maintain and further develop a productive working relationship with the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, including holding a forum at the House of Commons on 'community cohesion, race relations and discrimination'
- Maintain momentum of the seminar series on *Muslims and Jews: Citizenship, Identities and Prejudices in Europe and Israel*

Key Achievements

The focus and highlight of public policy activity this year has been the symposium on *Integration, Disadvantage and Extremism*, held at the House of Commons (May 2013). This was organised in partnership with the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford and the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, following an approach by the All Party Group. Sixty people participated in the symposium, including: Government Minister, Baroness Sayeda Warsi and six Members of Parliament; government officials from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Home Office; representatives from 12 think tanks, the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Islamophobia and five charities. The symposium identified a number of critical factors which could inform public policy and a report based on the Symposium's proceedings, to be published on-line and in print, is in preparation.

"The speakers and Q&A were very interesting. I think the main points I took away were the concept of the paradox of integration and the over-riding importance of economic deprivation in undermining social cohesion, but there was much other food for thought. It was also great to be able to chat in the margins with, and meet so many people who are active in this field." Vanessa Scarborough, Department for Communities and Local Government

"I was really delighted that I was invited to participate - I found it a really useful event and discussion." Vidhya Ramalingam, Institute for Strategic Dialogue

"Thanks for putting on this great series of events - it is such a pleasure to be part of this community." Margaret Greenfields, The Institute of Diversity Research, Buckinghamshire New University

"...thank-you for the extraordinary efforts you and the team put in to making yesterday such a success. The feedback from the MPs who attended was excellent. The panellists contributions were of an exceedingly high calibre, the right people were in the room and there were some very useful policy pointers for taking this work forward." Danny Stone, Secretary to the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism

The Muslims and Jews project has also progressed well, with seminars held in Haifa (January 2013) and Paris (April 2013).

In August 2012, the Runnymede Trust, the UK's leading race equality think-tank, invited the Director to join its Academic Forum.

APPENDIX: PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF ASSOCIATES

Anthony Bale

Books

- Sir John Mandeville, *The Book of Marvels and Travels*, a new translation and edition, Oxford University Press, 2012, World's Classics series

Essays

- 'Afterword: the memory of atrocity', for Sethina Watson and Sarah Rees-Jones (eds) *The York Massacre of 1190 in Context*, Boydell and Brewer, 2012, 294-304

Stephen Frosh

Essays

- *Hauntings: Psychoanalysis and Ghostly Transmissions*, Palgrave, 2013
- 'Psychoanalysis, Colonialism, Racism', *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, 33, 2013, 141-154
- 'Melancholic Subjectivity' in R. Tafarodi (ed) *Subjectivity in the 21st Century: Psychological, Sociological and Political Perspectives*, Cambridge University Press, 2013

Erik Kaufman

Books

- *Whither the Child?: Causes and Consequences of Low Fertility* (co-edited with W Wilcox), Paradigm, 2013

Essays

- 'Sacralization by Stealth: the religious consequences of low fertility in Europe', in E. Kaufmann and W. Wilcox (eds), *Whither the Child?: Causes and Consequences of Low Fertility*, Paradigm, 2013

Public Policy and Public Engagement

- Organiser and speaker at public policy round-table, *Diversity and the White Working Class: White Flight, Anti-Immigration Politics and Integration*, April, 2013. Department of Politics, Birbeck and DEMOS, supported by the Pears Institute
- Articles and coverage relating to the research have appeared in: Daily Telegraph, Economist, Independent, Huffington Post, London Review of Books, Prospect and the Sunday Times, among others

Research

- Awarded 18 month ESRC research project grant, commencing October 2012, 'Exit, Voice or Accommodation?: white working-class responses to ethnic change in Britain' (with Gareth Harris)

Jessica Reinisch

Book

- *The Perils of Peace: Public Health in Occupied Germany*, OUP, 2013

Essays

- 'Auntie UNRRA at the Crossroads', in R. Mitter and M. Hilton (eds), *Transnationalism and Contemporary Global History*, Past and Present Supplement 218/8, 70-97

Research

- Awarded August 2012, Wellcome Trust Investigator Award to set up a research group on the history of internationalism and health. A main focus of this group is to look at how forms of international collaboration were affected by the world wars, foreign occupation, racial conflicts, the Holocaust and mass population movements in central and eastern Europe.

Irene Bruna Seu

- “In countries like that...’ moral boundaries and implicatory denial in response to human rights appeals’, *The International Journal of Human Rights*, Volume 16, Issue 8, 2012, 1170-1182

Nik Wachsmann

- Lecture: *The History of the Nazi Concentration Camps*, Centre for the Study of Modern Conflict, The University of Edinburgh, March 2013